A T-shirt cannon at a homecoming assembly launched Brian Francis, Park Hill South High School senior, on his journey to national recognition and a future in mechanical engineering.

Seeing the robotics team’s cannon sparked Brian’s passion in engineering, so he joined the Electromagnetic Panthers. Park Hill helped direct his ambition, he said. “Pretty much as soon as I got active and involved with the team . . . it became the motivation for what I do.”

He and his teammates made the playoffs last year and won the Team Spirit Award at the Greater Kansas City Regional FIRST Robotics Competition. Francis received additional recognition as a National Merit Semifinalist, and he was one of only 2,000 students to earn a perfect composite score on his ACT out of more than 2 million students who took the test.

Francis credited robotics Coach Daniel Henson and Assistant Coach Jennifer Schoenfeldt as well as team mentors Nick Bartels and Dan Carter for their support. “They served as guides and moral compasses to make sure that I was actively doing what I wanted to and ensuring that I was following the educational path that would get me to where I wanted to be.”

To Francis, people define Park Hill. “I think the best part of the school district is that there are some really incredible teachers who spend all of their waking hours either helping students with math homework or coaching various clubs and doing events because they care more about the students than they care about anything else in the world,” he said.

Jane Francis, Brian’s mother, said Park Hill was a great environment for a hard-working student like her son, because the schools provided “opportunities and experiences within a genuinely caring setting.”
Dear Park Hill Family,

The 2018-2019 school year is in full swing! Park Hill is glad to have our students back in our schools.

Part of our job involves determining the schools that our students attend. In preparation for the opening of Hopewell Elementary and Walden Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year, and in order to balance our very different high school enrollments, we will be redistricting all of our attendance boundaries, from elementary through high school. Redistricting will help us continue to be one of the best districts around by protecting our low class sizes and making sure we can balance our resources.

Redistricting always causes concerns about changing schools, but fortunately our schools are particularly well set-up to make sure that a student who moves between our schools has a good experience, both educationally and personally. Our schools have a very consistent curriculum, approach to teaching, and resources at each location. We have the same level of rigor, and we have the same high quality of teachers at each of our schools.

Throughout this process, we will host public input meetings and provide an online feedback tool to get your thoughts on the redistricting committee’s ideas before the Board sets the new attendance areas. The Board plans to make its decision in December.

Whether or not you have children in our schools, you are part of our Park Hill family. Your continuing support allows us to grow and improve so that we can provide one of the best educational experiences in the area to our students.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS COMPETITION

Evan Morris, a 2018 Park Hill South High School graduate, placed in the top 10 in biomedical lab science at the international Health Occupations Students of America competition.

NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE HONORS

Three high school students earned recognition at the National Speech and Debate Tournament. Park Hill High School student Jay Elder placed fifth in extemporaneous debate, and his brother, 2018 graduate Jackson Elder, placed ninth in congressional debate. Park Hill South 2018 graduate Seth Frye finished in the top 20 in big question debate.

VOLLEYBALL GPA AWARDS

The 2017 PHHS volleyball team earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association’s Team Academic Award. The honor recognizes the team for keeping a 4.0 cumulative team grade-point average. PHHS is among only 358 high school girls teams in the nation to receive the award.

PTA AWARDS

Renner and Prairie Point elementary schools earned the 2018-2020 National PTA School of Excellence award. Prairie Point has won the award twice. This year, Park Hill has the only two schools in Missouri to receive the honor, which highlights schools’ strong partnerships with families.

COACH AWARD

Brandt Bell, head coach of the Park Hill High School girls soccer team, received the Missouri Large Public School Soccer Coach of the Year award from the Missouri State High School Soccer Coaches Association.

BEHAVIOR AWARDS

Union Chapel Elementary and the Gerner Family Early Education Center received awards from the Missouri Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support program for their exemplary teaching and reinforcing behavioral expectations.

Union Chapel is among only 47 schools to receive the gold level of recognition, which it has received two years in a row. Union Chapel also received a nomination for the Dr. Mary Richter Award, which spotlights commitment to improving the lives of students, their educators and the local community.

Gerner is among only 48 schools to receive the silver level of recognition.

Visit our website at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us for more information on these and other success stories.
CALENDAR:

Sept. 28
No school for students

Oct. 11
Board meeting

Oct. 12
No school for students

Oct. 25
Board Meeting
Education Foundation
Community Breakfast

GET CONNECTED:

Our website has lots of ways for you to engage with Park Hill Schools. Find them all at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

Social Media
Find us on Facebook and YouTube, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @ParkHillSchools.

First Hand E-mail News
Get district news and highlights from Board meetings.

First Hand Mobile
Get text message alerts about weather and emergencies.

Park Hill TV
See our videos on Spectrum Cable channel 18 and Google Fiber TV channel 140

Online Comment Portal
Share your comments, suggestions for improvement and even your compliments.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

In an effort to keep the community informed, the “Park Hill Connection” goes to every home in the Park Hill School District, even those without students in our schools. Thank you for your support of your community’s schools!

Plaza Middle School sixth graders Sophia Humphrey, Evan Hilton and Vanessa Hernandez learned about perspective by creating a three-dimensional word.